

RINGO Statement – SJWA Workshop 2 on Means of Implementation

Thank you, Co-Facilitators.

My name is Chiara Villani, and I am speaking on behalf of the Research and Independent NGOs constituency, RINGO. I am a member of RINGO through The Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, a CGIAR Center, and I currently serve as the co-lead for the RINGO Agriculture Group.

RINGO provides a range of independent views, with a common focus on the science-policy interface. While we do not take position on specific topics as a constituency, we would like to share several evidence-based reflections that may help inform discussions during this workshop on Means of Implementation.

The focus of today's workshop—identifying needs and improving access to means of implementation—is both timely and essential.

Evidence consistently shows that despite growing recognition of the importance of agriculture and food systems for climate action, implementation continues to lag behind ambition. A key reason is that means of implementation are often approached in a fragmented manner. Finance, capacity building, technology transfer, research, innovation, and knowledge systems are frequently treated as separate elements, when in practice they are deeply interconnected.

Scientific evidence suggests that climate finance alone is not sufficient to deliver transformative outcomes. Agriculture and food systems receive only a small fraction of global climate finance, despite being among the sectors most vulnerable to climate change and among the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Smallholder farmers, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth continue to face significant barriers in accessing available resources, often due to institutional, technical, and capacity constraints rather than simply a lack of funding.

This points to a broader lesson: effective means of implementation require an enabling ecosystem.

Finance is most effective when accompanied by strong local institutions, robust knowledge systems, accessible technologies, enabling subsidy frameworks and sustained capacity-building efforts . Investments in climate-resilient agriculture depend on the availability of climate information, locally adapted innovations, extension services, monitoring systems, and research partnerships that help translate scientific knowledge into practical action.

Evidence further suggests that strengthening national research and extension systems should be considered a core component of means of implementation. Countries need access not only to financial resources, but also to climate analytics, decision-support tools, monitoring and evaluation systems, and locally relevant evidence that can support implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, and broader food systems transformation strategies.

Technology transfer also remains critical. However, experience shows that successful technology transfer is rarely about transferring technologies alone. Adoption depends on whether solutions are affordable, locally appropriate, responsive to farmers' needs, and accompanied by training, advisory services, and supportive policy frameworks. Technologies are most effective when they are co-developed with farmers, researchers, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities.

At the same time, scientific assessments increasingly emphasize the importance of integrated approaches. Agriculture and food systems sit at the nexus of climate, biodiversity, land degradation, water security, livelihoods, and nutrition. As such, means of implementation should support interventions that generate multiple benefits across these dimensions rather than addressing challenges in isolation.

This includes investing in sustainable land management, agroforestry, improved soil health, sustainable nutrient management, climate-resilient livestock systems, crop diversification, sustainable diets and nature-based solutions. These approaches can simultaneously contribute to adaptation, mitigation, biodiversity conservation, food security, and resilience.

Importantly, evidence also highlights the need to strengthen coherence across international commitments and national implementation processes. Aligning climate action with biodiversity, land restoration, and food security objectives can help maximize impact, reduce duplication, and improve the effectiveness of limited public resources.

Looking ahead, RINGO encourages Parties to continue viewing means of implementation through a systemic lens—one that combines finance, capacity building, research and knowledge systems, and technology transfer into mutually reinforcing pillars of climate action while securing just transitions for all.

We also encourage continued engagement with the scientific community, research organizations, farmer groups, Indigenous Peoples, youth networks, civil society, and other stakeholders who can contribute practical evidence and implementation experience.

RINGO stands ready to support Parties by providing independent, science-based evidence, data, tools, and lessons from implementation on the ground. We encourage Parties to make full use of the research community's expertise to help inform decision-making, strengthen implementation, and identify scalable solutions that can accelerate climate action in agriculture and food systems.

The science is clear: many of the solutions already exist. The challenge before us is not only identifying them, but ensuring that the means of implementation needed to scale them reach those who need them most.

Thank you.